

Viewing, Resizing and Printing High Resolution Images

A Word about TIFF Image Files

High resolution TIFF files are excellent for preserving great detail, but they are also very large and take up a lot of computer memory. To make working with TIFF images more manageable, follow the steps outlined here for viewing, saving and printing TIFF images.

View a TIFF File

Viewing high resolution TIFF images from the Library of Congress Web site requires a TIFF viewer.

Viewer software is typically free and can be downloaded from manufacturer sites. Links are available on the American Memory Web site Help page at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/view.html#photograph>.

If you already have viewer software, skip to #2.

1. Find and Download Viewer Software
 - Go to: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/view.html#photograph>
 - Click on the desired software download link
 - Download the software following instructions on the manufacturer's Web site
 - Note: If you download IrfanView, be sure to download both the program and the plug ins
2. Find and Download a TIFF Image
 - Locate an image you would like to download from www.loc.gov. An image from this module is at: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pga.01629>
 - Click to enlarge the image
 - Click the link for "[Retrieve uncompressed archival TIFF version](#)" and save the image to your computer desktop or other location. Choose a filename that will be easy to remember.
3. Open the TIFF image in the viewer software
4. View the image, using the menu options to view the image in its original size. In IrfanView, select View, then the "View as Original Size" option.

Resize & Save a Large Image as a JPEG File

1. Open the TIFF image in the viewer software.
2. Look at the TIFF image in its original size. Use the menu options to find one that allows you to view the image in its original size. In IrfanView, select View, then the "View as Original Size" option.

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3. Consider the following if you want to print the image:
 - What is the shape of the image? This will be helpful if you want to print the image later.
 - How big is the image now? How big do you want the final image to be?
 - How much paper will be needed for each printed copy?
 - How might it best fit on paper when printed (letter, legal or larger size paper).
4. Resize the image. Be sure to preserve the aspect ratio to avoid image distortion.
5. Set the size in inches so you can estimate how many sheets of paper it will take to print the image.
6. Save the image as a JPG file (a standard graphic format, using a filename that will be easy to remember).

Printing a Large Image Using a Spreadsheet Program

Use a spreadsheet program to print large images on multiple sheets of paper and follow these steps.

Note: You may need to experiment to find what works best for the image you are trying to print.

1. Open a new document in your spreadsheet program and insert your large image into the open document using the “Insert Picture From File” option.
2. Use the “Page Break View” to see how it will fit on multiple sheets of paper.
3. Look for the markers along the bottom and side of the picture that show the page breaks.
4. Use a “corner handle” to adjust the size of the image (this retains the original aspect ratio).
5. Check the page layout and adjust the paper size as desired.
6. If you need a little more space, adjust the margins (make them as small as possible to avoid wasting paper).
7. Save the spreadsheet file, using a filename that is easy to remember.
8. Select the “Print Preview” option, check the settings and then “Print” the image.

NOTE: This procedure can be used with large images including maps, prints, and photographs.